UAL Level 2 and Level 3 Diploma Performing Arts

We are very much looking forward to seeing you next year and wanted to give you the opportunity to start developing your wider appreciation of acting, theatre and performing arts.

Please watch a recording of some live theatre online. There are many examples of this including the national theatre live. <https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/nt-at-home>

You should aim to watch the complete play then write a review about it. Try to write around 500 words and you include images.

This work will become part of your Diploma assignments and needs to be completed either on computer and sent to [katie.marshall-preece@sheffcol.ac.uk](mailto:katie.marshall-preece@sheffcol.ac.uk), or on paper and brought with you on your first day.

Theatre reviewing will help you develop your understanding of drama and the theatre. Review writing will help you be more responsive to what you see, and more alert to the performance and production elements.

Different kinds of plays and productions will be reviewed differently. You need to respond to the experience provoked by a performance.

Before you watch the performance, make sure you know some background information. This may include:

* The name of the play, playwright, which company are performing it, who directed the play, who designed the play, where and when it was performed.
* What kind of play is it, and what is it about?

We would recommend watching the play twice, once to enjoy and understand the story, and again to analyse and write notes for your review.

We have given you a guide about how to write your review below so please look so you can make some notes as you go.

* A brief summary of the main action is a good way to start before talking about the main themes of the play and the issues it confronts.
* What is the style of performance?
* Is the play typical of one particular genre? Is it a comedy, a tragedy, absurd, naturalistic or postmodern?
* Explain how this is portrayed in the performance, (ie techniques).
* What are the main characters of the play?
* Do you think the actors understand the work?
* How convincing did the actors seem in their portrayal of their characters?
* What is their relationship with the other characters on stage and how well do they work together?
* How well did they use their voice, movement or gestures to express their character?
* Is there someone that stands out? Describe why. Distinguish here between the text and the performance. Be objective, this is not about what you ‘like’ or ‘don’t like’.

**Describe aspects of the performance in detail. Back up your judgements with evidence from the performance.**

Here are some useful words to help you explain the performance:

Compelling, difficult, complex, simple, overwhelming, aesthetically appealing, vague, dry, humorous, inviting, stale, logical, warm, frightening, abstract, dark, invigorating, mechanical, predictable, sophisticated, grotesque, energetic, enjoyable or abrasive, direction, imagery, grouping, pace and timing, atmosphere or mood.